IN THE CLAIMS:

Please reconsider the claims as follows:

- (previously presented) An optical monitor, comprising:
- a tunable filter for filtering a tapped portion of an optical signal at a predetermined frequency to provide thereby a first filtered optical signal;
- a directing means for directing the first filtered optical signal back through the tunable filter to provide thereby a second filtered optical signal; and
 - a photodetector for measuring the power of the second filtered optical signal.
- 2. (previously presented) The optical monitor of claim 1, further comprising an optical coupler for tapping a portion of the optical signal and for directing said second filtered optical signal to said photodetector.
- 3. (previously presented) The optical monitor of claim 2, wherein said optical coupler has associated with it a splitting ratio in range from about 1/99 to about 5/99.
- 4. (previously presented) The optical monitor of claim 2, wherein said optical coupler comprises a multi-section optical coupler.
- 5. (cancelled)
- 6. (original) The optical monitor of claim 1, wherein said directing means comprises a mirror.
- 7. (original) The optical monitor of claim 1, wherein said directing means comprises a Sagnac loop.
- 8. (previously presented) The optical monitor of claim 1, wherein said directing means is adapted for reducing polarization dependence of a reflected portion of the first filtered optical signal.
- 9. (original) The optical monitor of claim 8, wherein said directing means comprises a Faraday rotator mirror.

- 10. (original) The optical monitor of claim 8, wherein said directing means comprises a quarter-wave plate.
- 11. (previously presented) The optical monitor of claim 1, further comprising a control unit for tuning said tunable filter across a frequency band of the optical signal and monitoring said optical power as a function of a tuning frequency of said tunable filter.
- 12. (original) The optical monitor of claim 1, wherein said tunable filter comprises a plurality of coupled Mach-Zehnder Interferometer filters.
- 13. (original) The optical monitor of claim 12, wherein each of said Mach-Zehnder Interferometer filters comprises at least one phase shifter.
- 14. (previously presented) The optical monitor of claim 12, wherein said tunable filter comprises seven coupled Mach-Zehnder Interferometer filters.
- 15. (previously presented) The optical monitor of claim 1, wherein said tunable filter comprises an exponential distribution of a free-spectral range from 200 to 12800 GHz.
- 16. (previously presented) A method of monitoring an optical signal, comprising:
- a) filtering a tapped portion of the optical signal at a predetermined frequency using a frequency tunable filter to provide thereby a first filtered optical signal;
 - b) substantially polarization dependence of the first filtered optical signal;
- c) reflecting the first filtered optical signal back through the tunable filter to provide thereby a second filtered optical signal;
 - d) determining the power of the second filtered optical signal; and
- e) repeating steps a) through d) throughout a frequency band of the optical signal to determine an optical spectrum of the optical signal.
- 17. (previously presented) An optical monitor, comprising:
 - a first means for tapping a portion of an optical signal;
- a frequency tunable means for filtering a tapped portion of an optical signal at a predetermined frequency to provide thereby a first filtered optical signal;

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- a second means for reflecting the first filtered optical signal back through the frequency tunable means and the first means to provide thereby a second filtered optical signal; and
- a third means for measuring the optical power of the second filtered optical signal.
- 18. (cancelled)
- 19. (previously presented) The optical monitor of claim 17, wherein the second means is adapted for reducing polarization dependence of a reflected portion of the first filtered optical signal.
- 20. (cancelled)
- 21. (previously presented) The optical monitor of claim 17, further comprising a forth means for scanning a tuning frequency of said tunable means across a frequency band of the optical signal and for monitoring the optical power as a function of the tuning frequency.